

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AEC-11

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DRAFTED BY ACDA/IR:LFISCHER:CAO

APPROVED BY ACDA/IR:RHMILLER

NSC:MPOWER (SUBS)

JCS:WLAFFERTY

OSD/ISA:JMORRISON

PM/DCA:VBAKER

EUR/RPM:AFLOYD

ACDA/IR:THIRSCHFELD

C:VLEHOVICH

S/S:DWMILLER

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 087762

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM,NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS

REF: NATO 2069

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

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1. WHILE WE CONCUR WITH WORKING GROUP CONCLUSION

(REPORTED REFTEL) THAT THE DEFINITION OF "DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS" IS A POLITICAL QUESTION, WE BELIEVE THAT THE FOUR OPTIONS PROPOSED FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATING SITUATION. THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE THAT EXERCISES MUST BE LIMITED AT ALL. THE ALLIES ARE THEREFORE ARGUING THAT THE STABILIZING MEASURES ARE DESIGNED TO CODIFY AND STABILIZE EXISTING PRACTICES, RATHER THAN TO PLACE THE WARSAW PACT AT A DISADVANTAGE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE DEFINITION OF TRAINING AREAS OUGHT TO BE BASED NEITHER UPON ABSTRACT CRITERIA (SUCH AS THE SIZE OF THE TRAINING AREA) NOR UPON ANY EFFORT TO EQUALIZE TRAINING FACILITIES ON THE TWO SIDES, BUT UPON CURRENT PRACTICES.

2. THE INTENT OF THE US PROPOSAL, IN EXEMPTING TRAINING IN DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS FROM THE DEFINITION OF A MAJOR EXERCISE, WAS TO PERMIT THE CONTINUATION OF NORMAL TRAINING PRACTICES BY BOTH SIDES IN SUCH DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF TRAINING AREAS USED BY THE SOVIETS, AND THE CAPACITY OF THESE AREAS TO ACCOMMODATE LARGE TROOP CONCENTRATIONS, AN UPPER LIMIT OF 50,000 TROOPS IN (OR ENROUTE TO OR FROM) DEFINED TRAINING AREAS SEEMED ADVISABLE.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE SOVIETS USE A CONSIDERABLY GREATER TOTAL AREA OF GROUND TRAINING AREAS THAN DOES THE US. HOWEVER, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT TO GET THEM TO ACCEPT OUR PROPOSED LIMITS ON MAJOR TRAINING EXERCISES AND THE USE OF GROUND TRAINING AREAS WOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO STABILITY IN NGA. THEREFORE, WE WOULD NOT PRESS THE SOVIETS TO EXCLUDE GROUND TRAINING AREAS IN CURRENT USE, REGARDLESS OF SIZE. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, TAKE A DIFFERENT APPROACH FROM THE FOUR OPTIONS POSTULATED IN PARA 5 REFTEL.

4. OUR APPROACH WOULD BE TO PERMIT THE US AND THE SOVIETS EACH TO LIST WHATEVER "DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS" IT WISHED, PROVIDED ONLY THAT ANY AREA TO BE INCLUDED MUST MEET THE CRITERIA CONTAINED IN THIS DEFINITION:

"A DEFINED AREA OF LAND WHICH HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY
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DESIGNATED FOR THE CONDUCT OF GROUND FORCES TRAINING ON A RECURRING BASIS; WHICH HAS BEEN USED BY THE GROUND FORCES OF THE US OR THE SOVIET UNION FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS OR MORE; AND WHICH WILL NORMALLY HAVE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON CIVILIAN ACTIVITIES WITHIN ITS CONFINES.

5. GROUND TRAINING AREAS WHICH MEET THESE CRITERIA

COULD BE LISTED, REGARDLESS OF SIZE, BUT ALL AREAS WHICH MEET THESE CRITERIA WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE LISTED. EITHER PARTY COULD EXCLUDE GIVEN AREAS WHICH MET THIS DEFINITION. BUT TROOPS IN SUCH AREAS WOULD THEN BE SUBJECT TO THE "MAJOR EXERCISE" PROVISIONS. WE WOULD TAKE NO EXCEPTION TO THE SOVIET LIST AS LONG AS OUR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION APPEARED TO INDICATE THAT EACH AREA ON THE LIST OF TRAINING AREAS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIETS FOR THEIR FORCES MET THE CRITERIA OF THE DEFINITION.

6. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE ABOVE APPROACH, SINCE IT IS LIMITED TO US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES, WOULD NOT INCLUDE DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS ON THE NATO SIDE OUTSIDE THE FRG. IN RESPONSE TO FRG POINT (PARA 4, REFTTEL), FRG FORCES AND FRG USE OF THESE AREAS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED SINCE THE ONLY LIMITS WOULD BE ON US USE OF THESE AREAS. FYI. IF NATO SHOULD DECIDE TO EXTEND THIS STABILIZING MEASURE TO ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, WE BELIEVE

AT LEAST ONE AND PROBABLY MORE OF THE TRAINING AREAS IN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS WOULD MEET THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE AND HENCE COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NATO LIST. END FYI.

7. THE US PROPOSES THAT THE FOLLOWING SEVEN WESTERN GROUND TRAINING AREAS BE SPECIFIED AS "DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS FOR MBFR PURPOSES":

NAME	LOCATION	SIZE
GRAFENWOHR	QA0911	234
HOHENFELS	QV0857	163
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WILDFLECKEN	NA6583	74
BAUMHOLDER	LV7999	113
MUNSINGEN	NU3962	67
SENNELAGER	MC8136	113
BERGEN-HOHNE	ND6349	298

8. IF THIS DEFINITION AND THIS LIST OF "DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS" IS ACCEPTABLE TO ALLIES, WE WOULD SUGGEST US AND FRG MILITARY AUTHORITIES JOINTLY PREPARE APPROPRIATE MAPS OF THESE SEVEN AREAS AND SUBMIT THEM

TO NATO. RUSH

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